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GENEVA FOR US MISSION

E.O. 12356: N/A
TAGS: PHUM PREL RW US
SUBJECT: HUMAN RIGHTS WATCH CALL FOR ACTION ON RWANDA

1. CONFIDENTIAL - ENTIRE TEXT.

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2. SUMMARY. IN A 5/4 MEETING WITH AF/DAS BUSHNELL, HUMAN RIGHTS WATCH FOR AFRICA AND RWANDAN HUMAN RIGHTS ACTIVIST URGED AGAINST ADMITTING MEMBERS OF RWANDA'S INTERIM GOVERNMENT TO THE U.S., CALLED FOR A JOINT DONOR STATEMENT DENYING AID TO THE NEW GOVERNMENT, CALLED FOR JAMMING EXTREMIST RADIO RTLM, AND URGED SUPPORT FOR A UN FORCE TO PROTECT DISPLACED AND ASSURE HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE. BUSHNELL EXPLAINED U.S. GOALS IN RWANDA AND HER OWN FRUSTRATION AT NOT BEING ABLE TO END THE VIOLENCE. END SUMMARY.

3. ALISON DESFORGES OF HUMAN RIGHTS WATCH AND RWANDAN HUMAN RIGHTS ACTIVIST MONIQUE MUJAWAMARIYA MET 5/4 WITH AF/DAS PRUDENCE BUSHNELL. THEY ARGUED FOR THE FOLLOWING POLICY INITIATIVES:

-- DENY VISAS TO INTERIM GOVERNMENT MEMBERS TO KEEP THEM ISOLATED.

-- ISSUE A JOINT STATEMENT WITH OTHER DONORS DENYING DEVELOPMENT ASSISTANCE TO THE NEW LEADERS IN HOPES OF LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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INFLUENCING THEIR BEHAVIOR.

-- JAM BROADCASTS OF EXTREMIST RADIO RTLM.

-- SUPPORT INVESTIGATION AND TRIALS.

-- SUPPORT EXPANDED UN FORCE UNDER CURRENT UNAMIR MANDATE FOR PROTECTION OF CIVILIANS AND OF HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE.

4. AF/DAS BUSHNELL OUTLINED THE KEY U.S. OBJECTIVES IN RWANDA: STOP THE MASSACRES, OBTAIN A CEASEFIRE, ENCOURAGE NEGOTIATION ON IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PEACE ACCORD, ASSURE HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE AND KEEP THE VIOLENCE FROM SPREADING TO NEIGHBORING COUNTRIES. SHE THEN RESPONDED TO ISSUES RAISED BY HUMAN RIGHTS WATCH.

-- VISAS. THE U.S. HAS DENIED VISAS TO INTERIM GOVERNMENT REPRESENTATIVES TO VISIT WASHINGTON, TELLING THEM WE HAVE NOTHING TO SAY TO THEM UNTIL THE MASSACRES END. THEY CANNOT, HOWEVER, BE PREVENTED FROM VISITING THE UN.

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-- JOINT DONOR MESSAGE. THE U.S. IS USING VOA, BBC, AND RFI, VIA INTERVIEWS AND EDITORIALS, TO PRESS FOR AN END TO THE MASSACRES AND ENCOURAGING HEADS OF STATE AND OTHER IMPORTANT PERSONALITIES TO MAKE THE SAME DEMAND. PRESIDENT CLINTON'S MESSAGE OF LAST SATURDAY WAS HEARD, AND WELL RECEIVED, IN RWANDA.

-- JAMMING. THE U.S. HAS EXAMINED THIS POSSIBILITY AND LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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REJECTED IT FOR TECHNICAL AND FINANCIAL REASONS, BUT WE REMAIN EXTREMELY CONCERNED BY RTLM'S INFLAMMATORY MESSAGES.

-- INVESTIGATION. BOTH THE GOR AND THE RPF WANT AN INTERNATIONAL INVESTIGATION. THE U.S. ENCOURAGED HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR HUMAN RIGHTS AYALO LASSO TO BECOME INVOLVED. HE IS FORMING A TEAM TO GO INTO RWANDA AND WE ARE LOOKING AT POSSIBILITIES OF ASSISTING FINANCIALLY.

-- EXPANDED UNAMIR. THE U.S. IS LOOKING INTO A RANGE OF OPTIONS AND THE QUESTIONS ASSOCIATED WITH THEM.

4. IN REPLY TO BUSHNELL, THE HUMAN RIGHTS VISITORS RAISED SEVERAL POTENTIAL PITFALLS IN ANY INVESTIGATION. THEY CAUTIONED THAT THE INQUIRY WOULD REQUIRE A SUFFICIENTLY LARGE TEAM, SECURITY FOR ITS MEMBERS AND THOSE IT TALKS TO, LANGUAGE AND TRANSLATION FACILITY, AND INDEPENDENCE FROM EITHER GOVERNMENT OR RPF ESCORTS.

5. ON UN FORCE EXPANSION, DESFORGE POINTED OUT THAT 600 UNAMIR TROOPS REMAIN IN NAIROBI AND COULD CONCEIVABLY BE IN KIGALI IN LESS THAN TWO HOURS. SHE SAID TO DO OTHERWISE WAS MORALLY UNCONCIONABLE. SHE ARGUED AGAINST ACCEPTING THE RPF CLAIM THAT ALL TUTSIS WERE ALREADY DEAD AS A RECIPE FOR INACTION. SHE URGED BEGINNING BY INSERTING TROOPS IN THE SOUTH WHERE THE AGGRESSORS ARE MILITIA NOT REGULAR ARMY AND CONTENTED THAT THESE MINIMALLY TRAINED YOUTH WOULD NOT RESIST IN THE FACE OF UN FORCES.

8. COMMENT. AFRICA WATCH AND MONIQUE ARE PERSISTENT IN LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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THEIR SEARCH FOR ACTION ON RWANDA. DAS BUSHNELL TOLD
THEM SHE, TOO, WAS FRUSTRATED AT NOT BEING ABLE TO DO
SOMETHING CONCRETE TO STOP THE CONTINUING MASSACRES.

CHRISTOPHER

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